

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 629

By Parkinson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the good people of the City of Memphis upon the occasion of the city's bicentennial.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those estimable cities that are celebrating significant milestones in their histories; and

WHEREAS, one such community is the City of Memphis, which is celebrating the 200th anniversary of its founding this year; and

WHEREAS, Memphis was founded on May 22, 1819, by a group of investors that included John Overton and James Winchester; the city's economy was largely supported by the cotton industry until after the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, notable businessman Robert Church, Sr., founded the first African-American bank in the city and bought land, including on Beale Street, that he used to create a new cultural epicenter for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Memphis was on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement; the city's sanitation workers went on strike in February 1968 to protest years of discriminatory treatment and to demand better working conditions; answering a call to join the protests, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., arrived in Memphis but was assassinated on April 4, 1968, on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, which is now the site of the National Civil Rights Museum; and

WHEREAS, the music of Memphis spans decades and genres: W.C. Handy wrote the first blues song published in the United States, "Memphis Blues," in 1912; Elvis Presley began his recording career at Sun Records; and B.B. King got his start on Beale Street. The Memphis Sound, a mixture of blues, R&B, and soul, was created at Stax Records in the 1960s, featuring the work of Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, and The Bar-Kays, among others; and

WHEREAS, a resilient city, Memphis has always been a city for innovators and groundbreakers; the creativity, innovative spirit, and strong sense of community shared by Memphians allow them to overcome challenges and emerge stronger than ever; and

WHEREAS, during the City of Memphis's bicentennial year, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly honor this fine community and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the good people of Memphis as they celebrate their city's bicentennial and extend to them our best wishes for continued success and prosperity in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.